

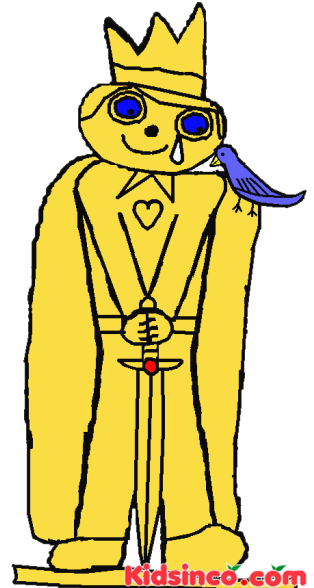
# “The Happy Prince”

by Oscar Wilde

(A school Play adapted by K I D S I N C O)

## Characters:

1. Happy Prince
2. Swallow
3. Narrator
4. Girl
5. Mother
6. Poor Man 1/ 2
7. Poor Woman 1/ 2/ 3
8. Mayor
9. Guard
10. Ángel



## SCRIPT:

*(The statue of the Happy Prince is on a tall column. He's all covered in gold. He has a gold heart. His eyes are two blue sapphires. There's a ruby in his sword. Crowd passing by, look at the statue and leave the scene. A mother and her daughter stop to admire it)*

Look mother, what a beautiful statue! Do you know who he is?

That is the statue of a Prince... it has been here for many years... people tell different stories about him. I don't know if he was real, or if he's only a legend.

Tell me what you know.

People say that he was a Prince who lived in a castle on top of a mountain. His father, the king, was a very generous and kind man, who shared his fortune with all of his people... that's why everybody loved him.. and the prince, too... They were very happy! There hadn't been another king just like him. They say, that one day the king got sick and died suddenly, and the Prince became so sad that he died shortly after his father's death.

Oh, that's a very sad story. Do you know who made the statue?

People collected all the gold and precious stones given to them by the king, and they made the statue of the Prince. They were so grateful for what the King did for them, and they named the statue ***The Happy Prince***.

Well he doesn't look like a Prince... He looks like an angel! I think he was as kind as his father!

That's what people say. Let's go home... it's late.

*(Mother and daughter leave the scene. A swallow arrives and lies between the feet of the statue)*

This is really a beautiful golden bedroom! ... Oh... this trip to Egypt is too long and I'm very tired! I'll rest here for a while and tomorrow I will continue my journey.

*(Two water drops fall on him)*

Oh... it's starting to rain!

*(More water drops fall on him. He looks at the sky)*

This is strange... the sky is clear. Where are those water drops coming from?

*(He looks at the statue. The statue is crying)*

Why are you crying? Who are you?

I am the Happy Prince.

If you are the Happy Prince... Then why do you cry!

I cry because when I was alive and had a human heart, I never worried about anything... I didn't know what tears were... that's why people called me the Happy Prince! And now that I'm here on top of this column, I can see that there's suffering and misery in my kingdom.

But what can you do about it?

My father was a great man! Everything my father gave his people, including the gold, helped them to have a better life... without suffering. And now, I want to do the same thing... but I can't... I can't move. I'm only a statue, and I don't need to be covered in gold and precious stones!

Is there something I can do for you?

Yes... At the end of the street, there's a poor house. One of the windows is opened and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. She's making a dress that a lovely lady will wear at the palace ball. Her son, is in bed.. hungry and sick, but she can only give him water. Please, little swallow, take her the ruby of my sword.

I'll do what you want, even if my friends are waiting for me in the Nile.

*(The swallow takes the ruby from the sword and leaves. He returns and lies between the feet of the statue)*

I did as you told me. The woman was surprised when I left the ruby on her window. She took it in her hands... she cried... and hugged her son. I felt so satisfied!

That is because you have done a good action. Stay with me tonight, please, and be my messenger.

Do you want me to do something else for you?

Yes! Please, take one of my sapphires to a writer that lives in that house over there. He is hungry, and cold. He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold and hungry to write any more.

What will he do with the sapphire?

He will sell it to the jeweller, and buy food and firewood, and finish his play.

I can't do that ... I should be in Egypt by now... admiring the pyramids, and watching the lions drinking water from the Nile.

Little swallow ... do as I beg you to do, please!

*(The swallow takes the sapphire from one of the statue's eyes and leaves. The swallow returns)*

Thank you, little swallow.

You don't know how happy I felt when I arrived at his house. The man looked so desperate... When he saw the sapphire I left on his window, he rapidly stood up... he took it in hands... and left the house in a hurry.

Now I need you to take the other sapphire ...

But Prince, if I take out the other sapphire ... you will be blind!

It doesn't matter. Do it, please.

Where should I go?

In the Square below, you will find a little match-girl. She's wearing no shoes and has no coat. Her matches fell in the mud and now she can't sell them. Her father will be angry at her if she doesn't bring home some money... and I don't need this sapphire... she needs it more than I.

*(The swallow takes the other sapphire from the statue's eye and leaves. The swallow returns).*

Oh, Prince, I did as you told me. Poor little girl... I found her crying lying on the ground. I stood in front of her, and when she saw the sapphire I had in my beak, she touched me gently.. then she took it. I flew away and I saw when she stood up and looked at me.

Thank you!

Prince, now that you are blind... I can not leave you... I'll stay with you forever.

Then, there's one more thing you should do for me. I am covered with fine gold. You must take it off, leaf by leaf, and give it to the poor people... those who are hungry and cold.

But... I don't want you to die.

Please understand... my people built me a statue with all the gold and precious stones given to them by my father... this is their gold... I want to give it back to them. Start right now.

*(The swallow takes off leaf after leaf of the gold and gives it to the poor men and women passing by)*

My children will not be cold this winter!

Oh... we have bread now!

My husband will have his medicine!

We can buy firewood!

Thank you God! This is a miracle!

*(The poor men and women leave running and shouting joyfully. The swallow is tired. He lies between the prince's feet)*

I did as you told me... now I will sleep for a while... I'm very tired.

Rest, my good friend... you deserve it.

*(The swallow closes his eyes and dies. The Mayor, his guard, and the crowd enter and look at the statue)*

There's a dead swallow lying beside the statue.

The ruby, the sapphires, and the gold that covered the statue are not there!

The statue is worthless. Let's destroy it, and throw everything to the trash... including the swallow!

*(The mayor, his guard, and the crowd take the statue and destroy it. They leave pieces of the statue and the heart on the ground. The prince's heart and the swallow's body remain together. The mayor, his guard, and the crowd leave. An angel enters)*

Where am I going to find the two most beautiful things I have ever seen... as God commanded me to do.

*(The angel sees the gold heart and the dead swallow lying on the ground, he bends and takes both in his hands).*

Oh, these are the most beautiful things I have seen here on earth... I'll take them to God, and I am sure He will be very pleased!

*(The Angel leaves)*

**The End**